Vol. VI. Numb. 75

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Parliament's taking the State of our Navy and Trade into Consideration. Great Regard due to the Petitions of our London *Merchants and Traders, who are the Bulwarks of our Religion and Liberty; and are as fit to be entrusted with the Protection of our Trade, as the* Amsterdamers *with that of* Holland. *Reasons why some of the Princes of* Orange *obstructed the Trade and Power of* Holland. *A Book about the Causes of our Naval-Miscarriages, and the true Way of Manning our Fleet.*

From Saturday, November 15. to Wednesday, November 19. 1707.

Obs. I Am glad to see thee look so brisk, *Roger*. The Clouds which hung betwixt thy Eyes, and threaten'd a Deluge of Tears, enough to drown the whole Nation, are clear'd up. I hope now thou hast a Budget full of good News.

Country-m. Ay, very good News indeed, Master.

Obs. Prithee out with it, *Roger*, that we may all rejoyce together.

Country-m. Then I'll tell you, Master, what it is: The Nation is under Cure, and by very able Physicians too, who, I hope, will restore it speedily to a sound State of Health.

Obs. Speak plain *English*, *Roger*, I hate Cant.

Country-m. Why, Master, *Madam Necessity*, *the good old Lady*, *Madam Necessity*, that has help'd *England* at many a dead Lift, is come to Town, and went and spoke to the Physicians in such a forcible Stile, that they have undertaken the Cure.

Obs. Lay aside thy mystical Terms, *Roger*; otherwise, I must drub thee into plain *English* with thy own Oaken Towel.

Country-m. Not so hasty, Master; I have been a long Time mad with Grief; pray indulge me a little in my Transports of Joy.

Obs. With all my Heart, Roger; but don't keep me in Pain. I am willing to partake in thy Joy, as I have done in thy Sorrows, but you won't let me. Out with it, Man.

Country-m. Dear Master, what have I to tell you! Our excellent and noble House of Commons, *our Physicians and Friends too, have address'd her Majesty to lay before them the State and Condition of the Royal Navy, and of our Trade, in Relation to Convoys and Cruisers, &c. What Ships of War have been taken from the Enemy, or destroy'd, since the Beginning of the War, and by whom; and her Majesty has graciously agreed to it.*

Obs. That's very good News indeed, *Roger*. Her Majesty, and our two Houses of Parliament, are our only proper Physicians, and are able, by the Blessing of God, to make an effectual Cure.

Country-m. It's high Time, Master, for Madam *Necessity* has put Words in the Mouths of the *London* Merchants, to petition the House, wherein they complain "Of the Want of Cruisers in the Channel "and Soundings, and pray, That in tender Com- "miseration of the extream great Losses which they, "and the Nation in general, have suffer'd; that they "would be pleas'd, *(before it be too late)* Madam "*Necessity* put in that Parenthesis, Master, to apply "such Remedy as to them should seem proper.

Obs. I wish, *Roger*, that we had needed none of Madam *Necessity*'s Help; but since it is so, there's no Doubt but a due Regard will be had to the Petitions of our Merchants of *London*, of whom we may say, as justly as 'twas said of those of *Tyre*, *Isaiah.* 23. 8. *That her Merchants are Princes, and her Traffickers are the Honourable of the Earth.* And we have Reason to say, as the same Prophet did of *Tyre*, *Who hath taken this Council against* London, *the crowning City?* Or, as it may be paraphras'd, *a Crown of Glory, or Pearl of Cities.*

Country-m. Hold, Master; you'll fall a Canting too by and by; speak plain *English*: What Council do you mean?

Obs. I am not afraid to speak my Mind, *Roger*: I say, 'tis the Interest of the whole Nation, which, as the *London* Merchants say truly in their Petition, has suffer'd in the Loss of our Shipping; that a strict Enquiry be made, by whose Advice or Neglect it is, that Cruisers and Convoys have been wanting? And there's so much the more Regard due to the Petitions of our *London* Merchants and Traders in particular, that they have ever, under God, been the chief Bulwark of our Religion and Liberty; and 'tis by their cheerful lending of Money, that the Government has been supply'd, not to say supported, on all pressing Occasions, since the happy Revolution.

Country-m. That's all true, Master. But do you think, that the Support of our Religion and Liberty by the *Londoners*, can be any Inducement to those to support their Trade, who were for making that glorious City a Village, and seizing her Charter by *Quo Warranto*, in some of the late Reigns? That's rather an Argument with them to sink her Trade, as I have heard you say, Master, 'twas an Argument with Prince *Maurice* of *Orange*, and his Cabinet-Lords, to impoverish *Amsterdam*, and the Province of *Holland*, because they stood in the Way of his arbitrary Power.

Obs. True, *Roger*; the *Dutch* Historians tell us, that after the Murther of Prince *William* the first, who rescu'd them from the Tyranny of *Spain*, the following Princes aim'd at usurping a sovereign Authority, and absolute Power over the Country; and being Generals by Land, and Admirals at Sea, there was none could put any considerable Stop in their Way, but the City of *Amsterdam*, and Province of *Holland*, who being made powerful and rich by their Trade, the Prince of *Orange*, with his Cabinet-Lords, Commissioners of Admiralty, and Land-Officers, did all they could to sink their Trade and Shipping; and since 'twould have been too bare-fac'd to have attempted it by Violence, they effected it by Fraud and Neglect, and suffering their Ships of Force and Trade to be taken by the Enemy.

Country-m. O what unnatural Monsters were those! Master, pray let me hear something more of the fraudulent Methods they made Use of to accomplish their Designs of enslaving the People?

Obs. E. Reyd, one of their Historians, tells us, *Roger*, as I hinted to you before, "That the Sea- "Captains were chosen more for Favour, than "Fitness: That in the Admiralties, Men were "plac'd, who understood nothing of Maritime- "Affairs, nor valu'd them, as having nothing to "lose that Way.

Country-m. That was an ugly Copy, Master; I hope no Body elsewhere has learn'd to write after it.

Obs. There's more of it still, *Roger*; *Ema Meteren*, another *Dutch* Historian, says, "That tho' all "those Accusations might have been justly laid to

"the

" the Charge of the Prince of *Orange*, and his Ca-
" binet-Lords, *&c.* yet neither the Merchants nor
" Fiſhers durſt make the leaſt Complaint of his ex-
" ceſſive Power.

Country-m. A ſad Caſe indeed Maſter, when Loſers cannot have Liberty to complain. I don't wonder, at this Rate, that the *Dutch*, and other wiſe People, have always been ſo jealous of too powerful Generals and Admirals.

Obſ. You will have more Reaſon to ſay ſo anon, *Roger*; *Van Aitzma* tells us, " That tho' the States
" of *Holland* and *Zealand* could not obtain of the
" Prince, and his Cabinet-Lords, the Money ap-
" pointed to pay the Premiums to thoſe who ſcour'd
" the Seas; yet, in a few Years Time, they were
" oblig'd to borrow at Intereſt, 123 Millions of
" Gilders, to enable the Prince to carry on his of-
" fenſive Wars by Land; and not only ſo, but
" the Prince and his Courtiers, apply'd the Product
" of the Convoys, Cuſtoms, and Subſidies, which
" were appropriated to Maritime-Affairs, for carry-
" ing on the Land-War; by which Means, the
" guarding and clearing of the Seas, came to be
" wholly neglected.

Country-m. Certainly, Maſter, thoſe *Dutch* Hiſtorians not only wrote the Hiſtory of their own Times, but propheſy'd of ſuch as were to come after; or elſe the Rogues of all Nations, be they Monarchies or Republicks, write after one and the ſame Copy. But what did the *Dutch* do all this While, Maſter? Did they take this patiently?

Obſ. Not very patiently, *Roger*; for *Weſſanaer*, another of their Hiſtorians, tells us, " That when
" their Men of War came in, and had done nothing
" againſt the *Dunkirkers*, who made the *North* Sea
" impracticable, the People of *Fluſhing* fell into a
" Mutiny, and thoſe of *Terveer* threw Stones at
" Vice-Admiral *Van Derp*, who was afterwards
" turn'd out without a Hearing. The Citizens of
" *Amſterdam*, made heavy Complaints of the unex-
" preſſible Damages they ſuſtain'd in their Bodies
" and Goods, by continual Pyracies, and the little
" Care taken for their Redreſs; and the Magiſtrates
" of that City, offer'd to put out 10 or 12 Men of
" War, well Mann'd, to ſecure their Shipping, un-
" der a Commiſſion from the Prince, provided the
" Money diſburs'd upon that Account, might be
" deducted from the Taxes paid by that City; and
" that no other Perſon ſhould have any Power, or
" be any Way concern'd about the Equipage and
" Money, but themſelves, according as had been
" practis'd under their ancient Earls. At laſt, *Ro-*
ger, they prevail'd, by their Importunities, to have a Fund, to encourage their own Ships that cruis'd upon the Enemy, and to have the Management of it put into the Hands of thoſe concern'd in Trade; by which Means, they ſcour'd the Seas, as I formerly told you.

Country-m. Why may not the City of *London* have the like Truſt repos'd in them, Maſter? *England* has been as much oblig'd to that Honourable City, as ever *Holland* was to *Amſterdam*.

Obſ. No Man can diſpute *London*'s Merit, *Roger*. It is certain, ſhe has Merchants and Traders, who, for their Quality, Eſtates, Integrity, and Parts, may be Counſellors to any Prince in *Chriſtendom*; and conſidering that 'tis the Intereſt of *London*, which is become the greateſt *Emporium* of the Univerſe, to promote and encourage Trade, we can't doubt, but a Council of Trade of her Magiſtrates and other Citizens, would take effectual Care for Convoys and Cruiſers, were they any Ways authoriz'd to do it, either by themſelves, or in Conjunction with the Admiralty. But this muſt be left to the Wiſdom of the Nation, *Roger*.

Country-m. Here's a Book left for you at our Printers, Maſter, entituled, *An Enquiry into the Cauſes of our Naval Miſcarriages, with ſome Thoughts on the Intereſt of this Nation, as to a Naval-War, and of the only true Way of manning the Fleet.*

Obſ. I have glanc'd it over, *Roger*, and find in it a great Deal of Honeſty and good Senſe. It is dedicated to our Parliament, who are the propereſt Judges of Things of that Nature. However, *Roger*, we ſhall conſider it another Time; for it will afford us ample Matter of Diſcourſe upon the preſent Subject of our Fleet and Trade; which of all worldly Things, concern this Nation moſt.

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LONDON, Printed for the Uſe of the Widow of the late Author, JOHN TUTCHIN.